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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015

Heaven can wait

Community rallies for Port Colborne five-year-old Hayden Davis, who's battling cancer

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Home improvement

Habitat for Humanity Niagara launches its first-ever renovation project, on Bell St. Page 9

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Imagination in motion



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Thorold Secondary School's winning entry in the Supermileage Competition, passes an entry from Port Colborne High School on Saturday in Welland. Story on Page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ **EDUCATION:** Inaugural Supermileage Competition at Seaway Mall

A race for which speed didn't matter

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Nathan Pierik could spot the problems right away.

"It's too slow, wrong gear ratios, and the brakes don't work well at all," said the Port Colborne High School student.

The tiny white and blue car also sustained damage to its corrugated plastic bodywork before the race even began, leaving a dent in its cowl.

And when the team started its 196cc engine for a test run, its front wheel from a bicycle popped off the ground.

"Yes, it does wheelies," added Pierik, who shared driving duties with fellow Port High student Brandon Creighton.



It was a good prototype year, and we're looking to expand on it next year."

Port High teacher Mike Ferrelli

Despite its deficiencies, Pierik and the other 10 students from the school's specialist high skills majors transportation program who worked on the project were proud of their achievement — building a vehicle from the ground up capable of driving as far as possible on just 250 ml of gas.

"It has awesome acceleration. Just a terrible (slow) top speed," said Port High team member Eric Fehr.

But speed didn't matter in this race. There was no checked flag for the first across the finish line. In this race, the last vehicle to run out of gas was the winner.

Saturday, the students brought their contraption — built using the rear end of a golf cart and the front end



Stamford teacher Keith McIntee and student Chase Irwin work on their entry in the Supermileage Competition.

ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

of a bicycle — to the Seaway Mall parking lot to test their design in District School Board of Niagara's Inaugural Supermileage Competition.

Port High's vehicle was competing against similar projects built by students from St. Catharines Collegiate, Stamford Collegiate, Eastdale and Thorold secondary schools, and South Lincoln High School.

Thorold's purple fibreglass car was one of the fastest on the track, easily lapping some of the slower vehicles.

It was also super-efficient, claiming the first-place trophy.

Second place went to St. Catharines Collegiate's go cart-based vehicle with an impressive paint scheme on its cowl.

And third went to Eastdale's sporty red vehicle that resembled a dragster, complete with a roll bar above the driver's seat.

South Lincoln High School's entry took top place for its design, which featured a bright aluminum body

with a Plexiglas canopy that enclosed its driver.

Stamford Collegiate's entry incorporated a full carbon fibre cowl, provided through a sponsorship with Niagara Airbus.

"We built the whole car from scratch," said Stamford teacher Keith McIntee. "We built it right from the ground up, design and everything."

Despite the impressive design, mechanical problems kept Stamford's vehicle from completing the race.

But for the most part, Port

High teacher Mike Ferrelli said "all the cars ran well."

"It was a good prototype year, and we're looking to expand on it next year," said Ferrelli, who teamed with Boh Ling, co-owner of St. Catharines manufacturing company Tora Inc. to organize the competition.

A few of the entries didn't quite follow the rules, but Ferrelli said organizers didn't stop them from competing.

For instance, he said, materials including alumi-

nium and carbon fibre were not supposed to be used in construction of the vehicles.

"They showed up and we said let them all run," he said.

But next year, Ferrelli said, there will be more consistency in the designs.

"It was more a chance for the kids to get out there," he said. "We're looking to get a few more schools out there for next year."

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

LOCAL NEWS

■ **HAYDEN DAVIS:** Family, community rallies for little girl in serious cancer fight

Heaven can wait for little Hayden

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

It's a word no parent wants to hear.

Not when their child is 50. Certainly not when they're five.

Six simple letters. Cancer.

It's a word Trimmer Benner never imagined having to associate with the bright-eyed senior kindergartener who lovingly calls him Dad.

But that's the reality for the family of Hayden Davis.

A little more than a month ago, they received a heart-breaking diagnosis.

It was near the end of February when signs of the disease creeping in first began to appear.

Only five years old, Hayden was experiencing back pain that caused her sometimes to cry to her mom and dad.

Trimmer and Hayden's mother, Jessica Davis, first blamed it on her dance and skating lessons, as well as the clumsy streak the energetic youngster is known for.

"She's a five-year-old. She's very active, and sometimes she falls down," Trimmer says, thinking back to what he thought was simply the bumps and bruises of childhood.

Though they first thought little of the issue, when it became a daily complaint their concern quickly grew.

A trip to the doctor's office

prompted blood work, X-rays and an ultrasound, each yielding no definitive results.

So, it started to intensify, Trimmer says of his daughter's pain, which resulted in several hospital and urgent-care visits. In early April and with still no cause identified, Hayden fell ill with a fever while in class at Ecole St. Joseph and was brought back to her Port Colborne home.

When the fever refused to break, her parents took her to the hospital, where an MRI was conducted.

"They found spots on her spine," Trimmer says, with a solemn voice.

At first, they were told it might be an infection. More tests were needed.

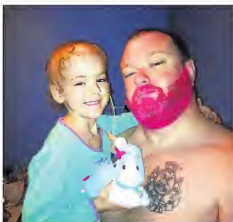
"Then they discovered a mass, as they called it. A tumour," he says.

After what seemed like endless tests to identify what they were dealing with, Hayden's family got the gut-wrenching diagnosis — Stage 4 neuroblastoma.

"It hit pretty hard," Trimmer says, vividly recalling the moment doctors shared the news.

Despite trying to prepare themselves, knowing early on in the hospital stay that cancer was likely, the news landed on the couple like a ton of bricks.

"I just don't have words to describe the emotion, other than numb," he says.



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Several fundraisers have been planned in support of Hayden Davis, a five-year-old Port Colborne girl who is battling Stage 4 neuroblastoma. Hayden is pictured in a recent photo with dad Trimmer Benner.

The next few days consisted of little more than tears.

The family — including siblings Charlie, 2, and TJ, 14 — was able to regain composure, wanting to show strength to help guide Hayden through the difficult journey.

"We've explained to her she's sick, that there's a lump in her back making her very sick," Trimmer says.

"I can't say she understands the gravity of the situation."

The father found it heart-

breaking explaining to his five-year-old that the medicine she needs to feel better is first going to make her feel worse.

On April 25, the youngster began her first round of aggressive chemotherapy, followed by a brief visit home a few weeks later.

Hayden recently completed her second round of treatment and was able to return home to Port Colborne for a few days before a fever sent her back to McMaster Children's Hospital.

Those few moments of normalcy have done much to boost her spirits, Trimmer says.

"Some days she's down," he admits.

"She's upset she's losing her hair. She misses school and (recently) missed a dance recital."

It was a breath of fresh air seeing her back at home, he says warmly.

"When was outside playing in the nice weather. Just full of smiles."

Doctors have a lengthy plan in place that will have Hayden undergo up to seven rounds of chemotherapy before they can attempt to remove the tumour.

Before embarking on her third round June 6, Hayden will travel to Toronto SickKids to have her bone marrow harvested. It will be preserved and transferred back into her body once her chemotherapy is completed.

To help brighten her days through what has been a dark time, members of her family have offered to shave their heads to mimic the young beauty's new look.

It's an offer she quickly accepted, but not without issuing an extra challenge to Dad.

"She wanted me to dye my beard pink," he says with a laugh.

"Anything to see that smile." Hayden's family is not alone in offering support to the

youngster.

The community has rallied around the Benner and Davis clan in what Trimmer calls a "remarkable" way.

Several fundraisers have been planned, and a GoFundMe account, Hayden's Hugs — Heaven Can Wait, has raised more than \$32,000 to assist the family with costs associated with her treatment and the required time off work that allows Jessica and Trimmer to stay at Hayden's side in hospital.

"We spent the first week crying every day because of the diagnosis. The following week, we were crying so much because we were overwhelmed by the support," Trimmer says. "When I saw Hayden's Hugs, I fell apart. There are a lot of good people out there."

The GoFundMe page was created by Sam Wilson, a friend of Hayden's aunt and UFC fighter Alexis Davis.

Trimmer offered thanks on behalf of his family to everyone who has offered assistance in any way, including those who sent positive thoughts and prayers Hayden's way.

"The more people who send positive energy her way, the better she'll be."

■ To make a donation, visit www.gofundme.com/HaydensHugs.

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DAILY DELIVERY!

From the sidelines

TOUGH HEROD

Thoughts of early GO service fuelled by magic beans

Ahh, politicians. You gotta love 'em. Just kidding, of course. But they can be awfully amusing.

This was proven once again in Niagara with the latest tidbit of GO train news.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne was in Hamilton last week, showcasing that municipality with future public transit money.

Most of that cash is for an in-city light-rail system. But a financial commitment was also made to extend GO train service to Stoney Creek. That involves spending \$115 million to upgrade rail lines and \$35 million on a station at Centennial Parkway, which would allegedly open in 2019.

Earlier this year, it appeared doubtful such a Stoney Creek station was on the near horizon. A Metrolinx spokesperson had told a Hamilton official there was no approved funding to expand the train service beyond the city's new James St. station.

You would think this news would have banned out GO boosters here, what with a Stoney Creek stop seemingly being a necessary link in the Niagara-extension chain.

But no. The cheerfully delusional mayor of Niagara Falls, Jim Diodati, said he wasn't concerned about the fate of the additional Hamilton station. Niagara was working on its own creative business plan that would negate the need

for a Stoney Creek link. Diodati's thoughts were echoed by Niagara Region Chairman Al Caslin.

"Getting the GO train through Hamilton is important, but we're really focused on the work we're doing down here. These are separate issues," said Caslin. With this week's news, though, Caslin and Diodati did twist that would have made Chubby Checker proud.

"It's a good news story for us," said Caslin, noting it will knock down the cost of extending train service to Niagara, "which is a huge win for us."

Diodati said Tuesday's announcement "moves the ball forward and we're going

in the right direction on all fronts."

Despite the 2019 completion date for the Stoney Creek stop, Caslin said he doesn't believe efforts to bring daily commuter train service to Niagara sooner than that are dead.

Caslin, apparently chewing on the same brand of magic beans favoured by Diodati, said he was hopeful GO trains would be making daily trips to Niagara in two years.

Well, who really knows. Perhaps defying all logic, fiscal common sense and market demand, the province will, in a fit of over-enthusiasm, bring year-round GO train service here sometime in 2017.

For argument sake, though, let's say a Stoney Creek station

is seen as a prerequisite for an extension to Niagara.

This would allow the province to announce at some point in the near future that plans are afoot to bring GO trains to at least some parts of the peninsula, starting in, say, 2020.

The 2020 date has some history.

Six years ago, GO Transit embarked on a study to assess the wisdom of expanding train service to Niagara.

At the time, agency spokeswoman Vanessa Thomas said she couldn't predict when commuter trains would run in Niagara if the assessment proved positive, but added GO Transit's strategic plan had targeted such a service by 2020.

Imagine if that projected

time proves accurate, eh? All this huffing and puffing, preparing of business plans and lobbying, political posturing and Diodati dotiness for nothing. The fix was always in for a 2020 extension.

Not, I hasten to add, that this would be the way a 2020 start date is spun.

Local yokels have spent far too much political capital on the GO train file to forego taking credit for its arrival in Niagara. And the province will be more than willing to pay tribute to the persuasive efforts of Niagara politicians, provided equal effusiveness is returned its way.

Funny stuff.

thend.niagara@gmail.com

Shipwrecks — American Fortitude

SKIP GILLHAM

For Postmedia Network

The retired bulk carrier *American Fortitude* was towed up the Welland Canal on May 13 and 14 for Port Colborne.

It was moored at the International Marine Salvage yard south of Lock B and it appears to be a candidate for scrapping.

The vessel was once one of the finest on the Great Lakes. It was built for National Steel in 1953 and sailed as *Ernest T. Weir* until 1978. The vessel had a significant collision with

the tanker *Mercury* in Lake St. Clair on May 5, 1964, that resulted in the latter ship going aground. Both vessels had considerable damage but were repaired.

Ernest T. Weir joined Columbia Transportation early in 1978. It was renamed *Courtney Burton* later that year and converted to a self-unloader at Sturgeon Bay, Wis., from 1980-81. The 210.31-metre-long steamship was sold to the American Steamship Co. in 2006 and operated through 2008 as *American Fortitude* before tying up at

Toledo.

Following a sale to ship-breakers in Texas, *American Fortitude* was towed down the Welland Canal in Nov. 29, 2014, only to lack Transport Canada clearance for the late season tow east of Montreal. As a result, the ship was brought back to Oswego, N.Y., and spent the winter there until the recent trip back to Port Colborne.

American Fortitude is pictured at right, Welland Canal Lock 1 on May 13 in this photo by Skip Gillham.



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■ SALVAGE

Captain John's reaches final destination in Port

FRANKI KENNAN
Postmedia Network

Captain John's safely reached its final resting place in Port Colborne early last Friday morning after about 17 hours on the water.

The floating restaurant was a landmark at its 40-year residence on Toronto's waterfront, and an estimated 500 people showed up to see it off on its journey to Marine Recycling, where it will be scrapped.

The boat was towed by McKell Marine, based out of Hamilton. McKell Marine marketing manager Breen Kinnaird said the ship arrived in Port Colborne at 3:30 a.m. Friday after a safe, incident-free trip.

"The weather and an efficient transit of the Welland Canal aided in making the trip in very good time," Kinnaird said in an e-mail.

Kinnaird said it was nice to

“
It's just a piece of history. I love it, it's so cool.”

John Kenzie

see so many spectators out along the canal as the vessel made the journey to its final resting place.

Several people visited the vessel last Friday morning as it sat in the port awaiting its fate.

John Kenzie of Port Erie went with his wife to see the famous boat Friday morning. He said he'd been following the story of Captain John's for the last 20 years.

"It's just a piece of history. I love it, it's so cool," said Kenzie.



FRANKI KENNAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Captain John's made it to its final destination in Port Colborne early in the morning on Friday.

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■ AVIATION

Bill introduced to rename airport for Rungeling

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

A local effort to honour an "amazing woman" and aviation pioneer is one step from becoming reality.

Last week, Niagara West-Glabrook MPP Tim Hudak introduced a private bill in the provincial legislature to officially rename Niagara Central Airport after 104-year-old Pelham resident Dorothy Rungeling, Canada's first woman to fly in international air races, one of the first women to hold a commercial air licence, the first woman to hold an airline transport licence, and the first woman to fly a helicopter solo.

"Dorothy Rungeling is an amazing woman with an interesting life who has made significant contributions to aviation, her community and the local airport," Hudak said in a media release.

Hudak said Rungeling is also credited with saving the airport that may soon bear her name, by drawing attention and support for the facil-

“Dorothy Rungeling is an amazing woman with an interesting life who has made significant contributions to aviation, her community and the local airport”

Niagara West-Glabrook MPP
Tim Hudak

ity in the 1950s.

He said Rungeling's achievements and her "trailblazing spirit" need to be recognized.

The airport's owners — the municipalities of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet — have all approved the name change, but airport



SUPPLIED PHOTO

Dorothy Rungeling, 104, stands with MPP Tim Hudak who introduced a private member's bill this week to rename the Niagara Central Airport in honour of the Canadian aviation pioneer.

commission chair Richard Rybiak said the final say rests with the province.

"Everybody is on side," Rybiak said.

He said the decision is now in the hands of the provincial government.

"I'm hoping that the House understands that time is an issue, and that we are able to celebrate the renaming sometime this summer," he added. "Once it goes to third reading, it will have been effectively renamed."

Welland MPP Cindy Forster said she also strongly supports Hudak's efforts.

"It's an honour to have been part of the Niagara Central Airport's renaming to honour and recognize a trailblazer — a remarkable, barrier-breaking woman, Dorothy Rungeling, who went against the grain, defied social norms and became not only a pilot, but a leader in the aviation industry at a time when very few women did," Forster said.

allan.benner@summedia.ca





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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Submission of Environmental Assessment Proposed Expansion of the Humberstone Landfill, Niagara Region

The Niagara Region has completed the environmental assessment for the proposed expansion of the Humberstone Landfill. As required under section 62(1) of the Environmental Assessment Act and according to the Terms of Reference approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change on Nov. 7, 2013, the Niagara Region has submitted its Environmental Assessment to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for review and approval.

The Humberstone Landfill, located in Welland, Ontario, has limited remaining approved disposal capacity. The expansion would provide an additional 2.4 million m³ (estimated 25 additional years) of landfill capacity for residents and businesses in south Niagara.

As required under the Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Assessment will be available for public review and comment from Friday, June 5, 2015 to July 24, 2015.

You may review the Environmental Assessment during normal business hours at the following locations:

1. Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

Environmental Approvals Branch
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
416-340-0111/1-800-461-6290
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

2. City of Welland Public Library

50 The Boardwalk
Welland, ON L3V 3X4
905-734-6210

Monday to Thursday: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

3. MOECC - Niagara District Office

301 St. Paul St., 9th floor
St. Catharines ON L2R 3M8
905-704-3900/1-800-263-1035
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

4. City of Welland Civic Center

60 East Main Street
Welland, ON L3R 3X4
905-735-1700
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

5. Niagara Region Headquarters –

Clerks Department
2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-980-6000
Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Project Location

6. Niagara Region's website

(available online at all times)
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/waste/landfills/projects/humberstone-ea/default.aspx>

Anyone wishing to provide comments on the Environmental Assessment must submit their comments in writing and/or fax to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change by Friday July 24, 2015. All comments must be submitted to:

Sasha McLeod, Project Officer
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Environmental Approvals Branch
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5
Telephone (416) 314-8214 / 1-800-461-6290
Fax (416) 314-8452
E-mail: sasha.mcleod@ontario.ca

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s. 37 of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Project Officer or the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.

Les matériaux personnels peuvent être obtenus en français sur demande. Pour les obtenir, veuillez communiquer avec Shannon Syts au 613-592-9600 ext. 4243 ou par courriel à SSyts@golden.com.

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225 NOTICES ISSUED

Distracted driving continues to be a problem in Niagara

ALISON LANGLEY
Niagara Network

The results of a recent distracted driving campaign by the Niagara detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police indicate drivers simply aren't getting the message.

"We continue to see a great deal of motorists using hand held devices," said OPP Staff Sgt. Jan Idzenga.

"Not missing a call, text or e-mail message is not worth being the cause of someone losing a life."

The OPP's highway safety division's high enforcement team and detachment officers from both Niagara and Burlington conducted an enforcement campaign from April 21 to 25 and again from May 26 to 29.

During the course of the campaign, police laid 255 distracted driving charges as well as nine Criminal Code offences.

"Life is busy and we can all be distracted but we need to get away from those distractions when driving and give our undivided attention to the task at hand," Idzenga said.

He is also troubled by the results of traffic audits conducted by the Regional Niagara Road Safety Committee, which includes members of the OPP.

"Traffic audits conducted by our committee show that we have a problem here

Life is busy and we can all be distracted but we need to get away from those distractions when driving and give our undivided attention to the task at hand."

OPP Staff Sgt. Jan Idzenga

in Niagara with distracted drivers," he said.

"We need to continue to educate, evaluate and enforce laws around the distracted driving issue."

Ontario's distracted driving legislation came into effect in 2009 and made it illegal for drivers to use cell phones and other hand-held communications devices.

Initially, a conviction carried a \$155 fine but that was increased in 2014 to \$280. Research shows that drivers who use cell phones are four times more likely to be in a collision than drivers who focus on the road. When drivers take their eyes off the road for more than two seconds, the crash risk doubles.

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■ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NIAGARA: Port Colborne project at 320 Bell St.

Woodwork charm to be preserved for Habitat's first reno

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Step aside, Bob Villa — Habitat for Humanity is taking the reins of this old house.

For the first time in its 22 years, the Niagara chapter of the affordable-home organization is overseeing a renovation project.

While normally CEO Alastair Davis would be breaking ground with a shovel in front of a pile of dirt or big hole excavated for a basement, last week he stood on a rotting front porch of a 1920s era, two-storey house in Port Colborne that will get a complete makeover for a family in need of better living arrangements.

Electrical, plumbing and

heating systems will be replaced at 320 Bell St., the corner-lot lawns will be groomed, filthy shag carpet hauled away and new appliances tucked into a sparkling kitchen.

Vintage wallpaper will be stripped from plaster walls, where above paint peels from ceilings.

What will be left untouched, however, is the thick, dark wood that frames doorways and lines stairs leading to the three upstairs bedrooms. Habitat also hopes to preserve the original hardwood floors.

"Everything in this house is in mint condition as far as woodwork is concerned," Davis said after the house was opened for tours to project supporters and donors.

Davis said the restoration will be much easier than a new build. For starters there's no effort to be made to have servicing and development fees waived by the municipality, or requirement to build a foundation. This one's on solid bedrock.

Over the past 21 years, its 42 homes across Niagara have all been built from the foundation up.

That this house was well looked after and is structurally sound made it "perfect" for a first reno job, he said.

Davis said Habitat has yet to meet with a home inspector and architect to determine what all the project will entail, and whether the home is sided, given a false brick exterior or kept as is with its rock stucco walls. Front porch replacement is a given.



GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Habitat for Humanity Niagara campaign for its first home renovation project, is launched by CEO Alastair Davis at 320 Bell St. in Port Colborne.

A large detached garage accessed from Athoe St. will continue to boast a spacious workshop.

The house was donated by brothers John and Stephen Miklosik, to honour their parents John and Zuzanna, who settled there after emigrating from Slovakia to Canada in 1938. It was the first donation of its kind for the local organization.

To support the project, more donations are needed, including for flooring and electrical supplies, roofing supplies and installation, waste bin and service

and tool rental. Windows and a new heating system have already been donated.

Angie Desmarais, a city councillor heading the project's volunteer steering committee, said it needs to raise \$70,000 in cash and donated materials to renovate the home — a figure which has already been nearly halved. She's been encouraged by the support the renovation has received since its donation was announced in March.

"In Port Colborne and across Niagara it's becoming more difficult to find affordable hous-

ing," she said.

A family for the Bell St. home has not yet been selected. Applicants will be chosen based on need for a better home, ability to pay a zero-interest mortgage back to Habitat and willingness to provide 500 hours' sweat equity volunteering with Habitat.

The home will be sold at market value.

"It's really about transforming

lives through affordable home ownership," Habitat board member Paul Miller said of the organization's role.

"Habitat's really about community building — not just house building."

Work will start in September, with hopes of having the home occupied in early 2016.

greg.fuminger@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @GregHabitat

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Edwards offers prescription for success

It's a milestone few reach in their careers, and even fewer achieve it before retirement.

But it's an honour Ridgeway pharmacist Donnie Edwards proudly received in Ottawa Saturday.

The co-owner of Boggio and Edwards IDA Pharmacy is the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award winner by the Ontario Pharmacists Association.

He was recognized at the annual Canadian Pharmacists Conference, co-hosted in the nation's capital by OPA and the Canadian Pharmacists Association.

"It's pretty exciting and humbling at the same time,"



MARYANNE
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Edwards said last week while taking a brief break from his work behind the pharmacy counter.

"This is a big honour in our profession."

While he takes pride in receiving the award, Edwards refused to take all the credit.

"You don't earn these awards all alone," he said, recognizing his family, business partner, staff, mentors and colleagues over the years for

helping him to reach many milestones and take on various projects.

Edwards previously served on the OPA board of directors, spending one year as chair, where he played an integral role in discussions about the Transparent Drug System for Patients Act, helped develop the MedsCheck program and initiated OPA's Drugs of Addiction strategy.

He also acted as the OPA's interim chief executive officer in 2007.

"Throughout his career, Donnie Edwards has shown leadership, passion and dedication to both his patients and his profession," current OPA CEO Dennis Darby said in a news release.

"His example inspires his colleagues and sets the bar for how pharmacists in Ontario can have a lasting impact on health care."

Edwards has held the title of pharmacist for more than 25 years, working in both northern Ontario and Port Colborne before opening the Ridgeway pharmacy seven years ago alongside co-owner Larry Boggio.

The OPA honour came as a shock to the 49-year-old, who says he's "only halfway" through his career with still "a long way to go."

It's working with people and building relationships that Edwards has most enjoyed over the past two decades.

"We're the most accessible health-care providers," he said, adding pharmacists are often the go-to source for immediate health and wellness advice.

"People trust us. It really hits home when you realize you are making a difference in the community."

In addition to his work



SUPPLIED

Ridgeway pharmacist Donnie Edwards.

at the pharmacy, Edwards spends much of his time doing presentations both locally and beyond Niagara's borders, speaking at schools about drug misuse and working to educate other health-care professionals on a variety of topics.

He is the Niagara regional

clinical co-ordinator and adjunct clinical assistant professor for fourth-year PharmD candidates at the University of Waterloo and has published several articles on diabetes, hypertension, pain management and addiction in various medical and pharmaceutical journals.

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■ **FUNDRAISERS:** Cyclists take up 200-km challenge from Toronto to Niagara Falls

Two-wheeling toward a cure

GREG FURMINGER
Postmedia Network

Debra Harrison's biggest worry is taking a spill out of the starting gate and being crushed into by hundreds of other cyclists.

Other than that, the 57-year-old FortHill woman foresees no other problems in the 200 kilometres of pavement ahead.

Harrison is participating in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer that takes place the weekend of June 13 to 14. She will make her way from Hunter College in west Toronto to Mohawk College in Hamilton on the Saturday, and the next day complete her journey to the hydro gates above the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara.

Harrison has always been an active mom, but admits in recent years her career and other commitments sidelined her fitness routine. Three years ago, she began taking up spinning at Studio Twenty at the town's shopping centre.

It was there in January that owner Krysta Pratt suggested they take part in the big cycling adventure.

"I said, 'Two hundred kilometres, are you serious? I haven't rode more than 50."

After some thought, she accepted the offer.

"I'm competitive, so I said, 'OK, I'll take the challenge.' 'I'll do anything I can to support cancer (research). We've all had friends or family who have died of cancer.'"

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, two of every five Canadians will get cancer.

When Harrison clips into her pedals to start her ride, she'll be remembering a friend who shared the same birthday date as her, Kelly McFarland, who died several years ago as a young mom.

"That was my first realization



Debra Harrison of FortHill is among a number of Niagara cyclists taking part in the 200-kilometre Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer.

that cancer can hit anyone, that it's not an old person disease," Harrison says.

Now that Harrison's daughter Emily is all grown and graduated from college, she was encouraged by her child to do more to keep fit and stick around for her.

Harrison's recent decision to work toward a better body and, more specifically, her efforts to train for the big ride, have since inspired co-workers to also improve their health and fitness, something she hadn't expected would happen when she signed up for the cancer fundraiser.

Recently, she has started to log 100-km days under the sunny skies, in addition to the

mileage put on using a stationary bike.

"You don't just go out and do that. I don't want to have a heart attack," she quips.

"It's not just about having strong legs."

She's also been working regularly to also develop core muscles that must be in line form for her long two-wheeled adventure.

Since late April, Harrison has logged more than 700 kilometres on pavement — that's in addition to her spinning.

On the streets, she's been joined by Pratt, who's also taking up the Ride to Conquer Cancer, and five others who have been training at the studio — two others from Pelham and three

from Port Colborne, including a mother-daughter pair.

"I'm excited to just complete the challenge," said 41-year-old Pratt, who was approached by ride organizers when they were

searching for host training sites for ride participants.

"I've done rides in the past, but this will be my biggest one," Pratt said, noting her two-time involvement in The Big Move,

which in early fall raises funds for Niagara's Walker Family Cancer Centre.

The Team Studio Twenty group has since aligned itself with Salt Steel, which has 300 people riding the event's same Classic route, specifically with one of its riders, Steve Cohen, of Steve's Cyclepaths. In the past seven years, the group has raised more than \$4.3 million, and has got a lock on logistics for participating cyclists, including housing to Toronto, and bike transport.

Since 2008, The Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer has raised more than \$119 million for the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and currently is Canada's largest global fundraiser.

Each participant is required to raise a minimum \$2,500.

Harrison has so far raised more than \$2,600. She hopes to increase that number. People can donate to her effort at www.conquercancer.ca/goto/debra-harrison2015.

This week she was to put in more training before taking it easier in the days leading up to the big ride.

All worries aside about a snafu at the start, Harrison is anxious to hit the open road.

"I'm pretty excited," she says. "I'm pretty pumped up."

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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Niagara EMS receiving more calls

'We're seeing a sicker population'

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

An aging, sicker Niagara population is contributing to "large increases" in calls regional paramedics are responding to.

There was an 8.4% increase in 2013 calls and a 5.4% increase in 2014, said Kevin Smith, chief of Niagara Emergency Medical Services.

"Certainly, we have an aging population here in Niagara, so we attribute that to some of the call increases," Smith said during an online discussion with reporters from Postmedia Network last Friday.

"We're seeing a sicker population in a sense that the acuity levels of the patients that we respond to are sicker."

"Then we think about the health-care system changes that are taking place and it becomes a very complex system to navigate. Sometimes what we hear and see are people who (feel) it's easier to call 911 and we'll navigate them through the system on their behalf."

Smith said Niagara is fortunate to have its own communications and dispatch centre, which handles calls.

"We see probably about 88,000, 90,000 calls coming through that centre each and

every year, so it's very busy," he said.

"Of that, we're looking at about 48,000 to 50,000 incidents that we will respond to."

"Out of that, we transport just about 40,000, 42,000 patients throughout the region."

Smith said Niagara EMS's goal is to "match the emergency resources with the people who need it the most."

"Everybody has an emergency and we want to get to them in a timely manner, but the reality is that some people need that service within five and six minutes, and others it can take 10 or 15 minutes and it doesn't change their outcome."

He said when 911 calls come through the dispatch centre, a triage system is used to determine the severity of the emergency.

"We go through and evaluate what the caller says — what they're seeing or reporting as far as a patient, it's not a patient on the scene."

"We use a very specific triage system and guidelines of questions to be able to get through and get to a very specific determinant on what patient is wrong with that patient."

"Based on that outcome... we have a response plan... that



Postmedia Network reporters Ray Spiteri and Karena Walter sat down with Niagara Emergency Medical Services chief Kevin Smith for an online chat.

is based on medical evidence."

Smith said the role of paramedics has changed significantly during the years.

In the 1960s and '70s, for instance, Smith said it was more of a "load and go" job.

"There was no concern at all

for any personal protection — no gloves, none of the biohazards and things we think of today."

"Then it was drive as quick as you could to get to the hospital."

The role of paramedics — and the responsibilities — have evolved greatly since those days, said Smith.

"When you think about the equipment that is necessary today for the response, it all starts with having the best

information that we can about what's happening at a scene."

"That's through the 911 caller, the information that we get at the dispatch and then that's how the paramedics are ready to deploy themselves, make sure they have the proper... personal protective equipment."

"Then the array of different medical procedures — medications that we can now treat people on the scene as neces-

sary and get them to whatever level of care that they need after that."

Niagara Health System president Suzanne Johnston said Niagara EMS play a "vital role" when it comes to health-care delivery in the region, including potential life-saving interactions with patients, such as those who call 911 with signs and symptoms of stroke, prior to them being transported to health-care facilities.

"We rely heavily on our EMS partnership across the region," she said.

Johnston said the NHS and EMS have worked, and continue to work, together on their evolving partnership, such as the care patients receive in an ambulance en route to health-care facilities, as well as how quickly patients are transported from a scene to NHS sites.

During Smith's sit-down interview, he also discussed Niagara Falls Regional Council, Bob Gell's desire to look into amalgamation of emergency dispatch services in Niagara; the Ontario Paramedics Association's push for there to be special laws or penalties in place to help protect first responders from violence on the job; how closely paramedics work with firefighters and police officers; and national Paramedics Week, an annual celebration of the role paramedics play in the community.



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Marine marker summons bomb squad

It wasn't a bomb — it was a marine location marker intended

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last Wednesday, Niagara Regional Police were called.

Responding officers requested assistance from the explosives disposal unit.

The object was determined to be a location marker used by the military during search and rescue efforts, police said in a news release issued Thursday.

The markers can be dropped from aircraft and will ignite when they impact on the water. The marker will emit large plumes of red phosphorus smoke as well as a bright flame. The phosphorus gas contained in the marker can be toxic and volatile, police said.

Normally, the devices will empty

completely, then fill with water and sink. In some cases not all of the gas is used, and the device remains buoyant and eventually drifts to shore, presenting a potential safety issue due to the presence of the compressed gas.

The explosives disposal unit safely disposed of the marker, police said.

If anyone discovers one these markers, police said, do not disturb it and contact the police so that it can be disposed of safely.



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■ TURBINES

Mothers' appeal of Niagara Region Wind Corp. project dismissed

Postmedia Network

Mothers Against Wind Turbines' appeal of Niagara Region Wind Corp. plans to erect 77 turbines in west Niagara has been dismissed.

A ruling handed down last month by a provincial environmental review tribunal found that the group failed to show that the

green-energy project will cause serious harm to human health, as the group contended.

The tribunal also found that MAWT failed to show that turbines would cause serious and irreversible harm to plant life, animal life or the natural environment and also that the incorporated group

did not establish a solid argument the Environmental Protection Act violates the right to security of the person under Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Niagara Region Wind Corp. was given the green light to move forward with its industrial wind turbine project early last November

when the Ministry of the Environment issued its Renewable Energy Approval.

MAWT filed its appeal soon afterward. Public hearings were held in Wainfleet and Wellandport in January.

In a *Tribune* interview last fall, Mothers Against Wind Turbines Inc. director Linda Rogers had little faith going in to the appeal: "The tribunals are destined to fail. The level of proof we have to muster is not just beyond the ability of a person in the public, it's beyond Health Canada and beyond the knowledge of science right now."

NRWC's planned 230-megawatt project is to see turbines erected in West Lincoln, north Wainfleet and Dunnville. The project would produce enough power for 70,000 homes and make it the fifth-largest wind farm in North America.

A spokesman did not respond to a request for comment on the tribunal's decision, or the status of the wind project.

Merv Croghan, who last fall was NRWC CEO and chairman, is no longer involved in the project, a receptionist for the Oakville-based company said. He is still listed as CEO on the NRWC website.

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THEATRE

Man revisits his prison life for one-man show

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

It was both the best and worst thing to happen to Michael Henley.

It nearly cost him his life. But also gave his life new purpose.

Most ex-cons want to forget their time in prison. They certainly don't want to relive it. But since serving two years in the late 1990s for — among other things — robbing a grocery store, the Niagara Falls fitness trainer has written an online journal and made a short film about his experience.

Last month, he debuted a 90-minute, one-man show, 23:30, at his Main St. fitness centre Motivators. The title alludes to the time spent per day in solitary, punishment for refusing to co-operate with prison officials after he was stabbed. Henley chose



MIKE DINATTISIA/NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

23:30, a one-man show by fitness trainer Michael Henley of Niagara Falls depicts his life behind bars and his life afterwards.

to be silent rather than a rat.

Locked in a hole gave him

plenty of time to ponder life, he says. Which is why his post-prison years have been

so busy talking about it.

"It's been very good," he says, describing early reac-

tion to the show. "I had one comment about it that said, 'It doesn't even look like you're acting, it looks like you're reliving it.' Which is pretty much exactly what I was doing."

In 1997, Henley was sent to the Collins Bay Institution in Kingston, Ont. — the end result of a mispent youth. After his stabbing, stemming from an argument over loud music with another inmate, he was sent to the much harsher Millhaven Institution in Bath, Ont., as part of his punishment.

He was released in 2009, determined to use the experience to his benefit. He started telling his story in chapters on his Facebook page, then made a short film which he posted on YouTube.

For 23:30, Henley turns his fitness studio into a

mini-theatre, seating 30 people. His stage is three sheets meant to depict prison walls, a makeshift sink and toilet, and a mattress on the floor.

For 90 minutes, Henley re-enacts his life before, during and after jail.

"It's like a motivational seminar, in a sense," he says. "By the end of it I come full circle with people. It's not just about me being in a prison cell, it's about the prison cell people put themselves in and the things they take for granted."

"The things they forget every day when they walk outside. Their own freedoms and stuff."

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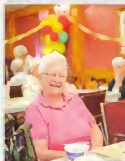
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Entry fee gone for Niagara Music Award entries

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network
The Niagara Music Awards are

headed back to downtown Niagara Falls.
For its eighth year, the show will return to Taps Brewhouse on

Queen St. for an outdoor celebration on Sept. 15. Last year's memorable show was a hit with both artists and fans, says NMA co-director

Erin Visentin, so it was a clear choice to go back.

"I think it went better than planned," she said. "I had no complaints after the show. Everybody was like, 'It was so great.'"

It appears to finally be a stable home for the awards, which bounced from theatres to arenas during its first six years. It started at the 1,000-seat Centre for the Performing Arts inside Kingston College on Epworth Circle, then headed to Welland and Thorold before returning to Niagara Falls two years ago at the Seneca Queen Theatre.

Taps co-owner Eric Martin said last year's show fit perfectly with the restaurant's ongoing support of local music.

"That's one of the big things (for us), we wanted to build a scene in Niagara Falls, which has always been lacking," he said. "It's been a lot better in the last year or so."

Submissions for this year's awards can be sent starting June 8, with one big difference: No entry fee. Organizers found many artists would only enter one category because of the fees involved.

It should bring back categories like Punk Group of the Year which

were cancelled last year because of lack of entries.

"I'm hoping with free submissions more bands will hear about it," said Visentin.

Under the old format, it cost \$10 to enter each category.

Also different this year will be a bigger video and production presence.

"Finding the right production people to work with is key on that," said Martin.

Artists can enter at www.niagaramusicawards.ca until the end of July. Nominees will be announced Aug. 18.

Last year's awards received an extra jolt when hometown hero Deadmau5, Joel Zimmerman, showed up to receive a lifetime achievement award. He stayed for most of the night and even handed out five awards.

"When you have a big name, internationally known person who shows up to our little Niagara Music Awards, that means people are paying attention," said Martin.

Visentin hopes St. Catharines-born Ross Sessmith will show up to collect his lifetime achievement award, announced last year.

"We're going to honour him again this year," she said. "We still have his award. He said (last year) 'If I had known, I would have shown up sooner.'"

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ERIC MARTIN

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COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES NOTICE For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN LP

Project Name Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")
Project Location Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario
Notice Dated At Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 4th of June 2015.

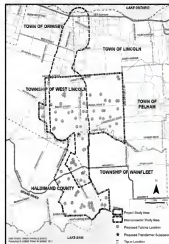
Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), is planning to engage in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change on November 21, 2014.)

Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Commencement of Construction Activities

Initial surveying, land clearing and grading activities will begin for the access roads and the operations and maintenance building. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical reports found on the Project website: www.nrw.ca. By June 6th, 2015, the Project is expected to be under full construction, including construction of access roads, turbine foundations, collector lines, and the substations. The delivery of the turbine components to the site is expected to begin in August 2015. Construction activities are expected to last approximately 16 months.



Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

PROJECT CONTACT	BOREA CONSTRUCTION CONTACT
Shiloh Berriman Email: shiloh.berriman@enercon.de Cell: 289-683-2563	Mahmud Hindi Email: mahmud.hindi@boreaconstruction.com Cell: 647-463-9116

■ **BIG BAND ERA:** Jimmy Marando founded group that turns 50

Swing band set for golden show that marks a milestone year

Postmedia Network

The Jimmy Marando Swing Band is celebrating its 50th year of bringing the big band era of music to Niagara.

The 17-piece band, plus vocalists, was created by Marando in 1965 and led by him for 38 years.

The band continued following his death in 2003 as a collaborative body of local musicians. It continues to use Marando's music library in its performances today.

The Jimmy Marando Swing Band has made numerous appearances at local public events and venues in and around Welland, including in recent years at IlluminAqua, The Sunset

Music Series and at the Fonthill bandshell, as well as at private functions.

The band has been presenting a free concert at Frado's Italian Restaurant, at the Homer Bridge on Queenston St. in St. Catharines, on the third Tuesday of every month for the past five years.

"Jimmy has left a great legacy in many ways — his family, his reputation, his commitment to his community, and more — not just as a musician and band leader," says the band's music director, Bruce Hollis.

"All of us in the band are proud, not only to be part of the great institution he started, but to keep his name alive doing something he loved to do."

The 50th anniversary celebration performance is Tuesday, June 16, starting 7:30 p.m.

Back in the day, Marando's band rehearsed Eastdale Secondary School in Welland. The musician owned Marando's Men's Wear.



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TESTAMENT OF YOUTH

Cast: Emily Watson, Hayley Atwell, Taron Egerton, Kit Harington, Alicia Vikander, Dominic West
A powerful story of love, war and remembrance, based on the First World War memoir by Vera Brittain, which has become the classic testimony of that war from a woman's point of view. DIRECTOR JAMES KENT ATTENDING

CANADIAN PREMIERES



FRIDAY JUNE 19 THE FALLING
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING | AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Cast: Florence Pugh, Madie Williams, Greta Scacchi, Maxine Peake, Monica Dolan
It's 1969 of a strict English girls' school where charismatic Abbie and intense and troubled Lydia are best friends. After a tragedy occurs at the school, a mysterious foaming epidemic breaks out threatening the stability of all involved.

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FRIDAY JUNE 19



SATURDAY JUNE 20



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PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS **CANADIAN PREMIERE**
CAST: JENAH CLEMENT, REGINA RAO, STEPHANIE ALLYNNE

HENRY OF PELHAM FAMILY ESTATE

7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
THE OVERNIGHT **CANADIAN PREMIERE**
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REDSTONE WINERY

7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING
ADVANTAGEOUS **JACQUELINE KIM ATTENDING**
CAST: JACQUELINE KIM, FREYA ADAMS, JAMES URBANNAK, JENNIFER EHLE, JENNIFER REDA, KEN JEDING, SARAHANNA KIMMAGE PEAKE, MONICA DOLAN

SATURDAY JUNE 20 MATCH
7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING | AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Cast: Patrick Stewart, Carlo Gugino, Matthew Lillard
Patrick Stewart gives a captivating performance in this witty, emotionally gripping adaptation of director Stephen Belber's own Tony Award-nominated play.



SUNDAY JUNE 21 UNEXPECTED

7:00PM DINNER | 9:30PM SCREENING | AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Cast: Cobie Smulders, Gail Bean, Elizabeth McGovern
When Samantha Abbott begins her final semester teaching science at a Chicago high school, she faces some unexpected news: She's pregnant. Soon after, Samantha learns that one of her favorite students, Jasmine, has landed in a similar situation.



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LANDMARK CINEMA (PEN CENTRE)

SATURDAY JUNE 20
NIAGARA RISES SHORTS • THE LAST AVIATOR
THE HOTEL GUE • FOR GRACE • VIAJE
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THE TRIBUNE

■ NIAGARA FALLS COMIC CON

Elvira is still horror's mistress

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

For Cassandra Peterson, Elvira isn't just her alter-ego, she's also a demanding boss.

Being the iconic Mistress of the Dark is 30 is one thing. But at 63, that classic, cleavage-revealing outfit isn't exactly casual wear. It forces Peterson to keep up appearances and resemble the sexy vamp who debuted on Los Angeles late night TV in 1981.

While she'll never get tired of the character, Peterson says the grind of becoming Elvira isn't getting easier.

"I do get tired of putting the drag on," she says on the line from Los Angeles. "It's not the most comfortable thing in the world. And the working out and eating really well, because I have to stay in the same outfit I've been in for 35 years. So it takes a little co-ordination and concentration about keeping myself fit."

*But I don't tire of doing the

character. I have a blast, really. Once I'm in it, then I have a good time."

Appearing at the Niagara Falls Comic Con, June 5 to 7, Peterson — through corny jokes and endless curves — is a horror institution. Between the TV appearances, calendars, posters, ad campaigns and endless other products, she worries "we're running out of ideas" to put the Elvira stamp on.

"I just signed up for a skateboard," she chuckles. "Haven't had one of those yet, so that'll be a new one for me."

For Peterson, it was a long, weird trip finding her macabre character. She spent more than a decade trying to crack showbiz after graduating high school in 1969, spending time as a Las Vegas showgirl, singing in Italian rock bands and appearing briefly in movies including *Diamonds Are Forever* and *The Working Girls*.

In 1981, she auditioned

for the revival of L.A.'s weekend horror show *Fright Night*. After producers said no to her original pitch — a Sharon Tate lookalike — she went full vampire with a tight-fitting, low-cut black gown and bee-hive wig.

But instead of talking like a typical horror movie character, Peterson tapped in to the California Valley Girl talk starting to take hold.

Her campy humour and pin-up sex appeal was an immediate hit, and after horror magazine *Fangoria* profiled her in 1982, her popularity soared.

By 1988, she co-wrote and starred in her own movie, the

gloriously goofy *Elvira, Mistress of the Dark*.

Despite the character's cartoon demeanour, Elvira would become both a feminist and gay icon through the years. Peterson credits the character's uncompromising spunk and confidence, knowing she's an outsider and not giving a crap.

"She doesn't take any guff from guys, and stands up for her beliefs, whatever they are — even though they're usually wrong," she says.

"And she doesn't let any guys come in and rescue her. I made that a really big point in my first film and my other film, *Haunted Hills*. Nobody ever steps in and saves her, she's never a damsel in distress. She can pretty much kick everybody's butt on her own."

During the 1990s, Elvira made the switch from horror hostess to lucrative brand, appearing in beer ads, comic

books and pinball games. Busy as she was, Peterson worried the horror host part of her career might be over.

"With the end of syndicated TV, the advent of cable, and then the advent of the computer ... I really thought the horror host was dead," she says. "I thought it was over for a multitude of reasons."

"But I'm happy to say that when I go out to these shows, like the one in Niagara Falls, I run into people who are doing horror hosting on cable stations or on the Internet. It's a smaller piece of the pie but they're able to do it. I'm happy to say it's kind of back."

It's not just the media landscape that has changed, however. Horror movies — the kind Peterson loves hosting — are flopping. So far her return to horror hosting last year on Hulu, she went back to old-time romps like *Dollman*, *Shrunken Heads* and *Canni-*

bai Women in the Avocado Jungle of Death.

"I really do like the old stuff," she says. "There are some more modern (horror) movies I do really like, but in general, I love the old stuff and the camp feeling you get. Honestly, those movies from the '50s and '60s are like comfort food to me."

"When I was home sick, cuddled up on the sofa with a blanket, I would watch old horror movies. It brings me back to my childhood and gives me a real feeling of 'Everything's OK.'"

Which is the same feeling the Mistress of the Dark herself instills in fans (as seen by the multitude of Elvira tattoos she's shown at every convention).

"It's strange ... the character doesn't age," she says. "I kind of do, but the character doesn't. I don't know how that works. I guess there's a lot of hair and makeup there."



ELVIRA - CASSANDRA PETERSON

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